

## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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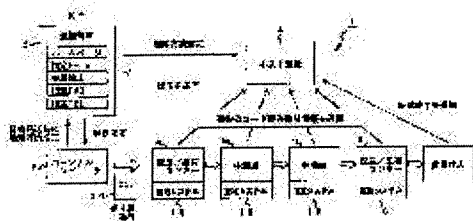
(54) CARGO TRACKING SYSTEM

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To allow a consignor to optionally specify the reporting method and communication means for a conveyance state, to improve the degree of freedom for the consignor to know the conveyance state of a cargo, and to improve the convenience of a cargo conveying system.

**SOLUTION:** A host device 4 receives the invoice information from communication terminals 3 of consignors, recognizes the reporting method and reporting timing set in the invoice information, recognizes the delivery/collection centers 5, 8 and relay points 6, 7 of senders each time the conveyance states of cargos transmitted from

readout systems 10 installed at the delivery/collection centers 5, 8 and relay points 6, 7



are received, generates the response information of the conveyance states for responding the conveyance states of the cargos to the consignors, and transmits the response information of the conveyance states to the communication terminals 3 by the reporting method and reporting timing specified by the communication terminals 3 of the consignors. The host device 4 transmits that the delivery of the cargos to consignees is completed to the communication terminals 3 by the reporting method specified by the communication terminals 3 of the consignors when it is informed of the completion of the delivery of the cargos to the consignees by deliverers.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the load tracking system with which the conveyance situation of a load is notified for the notice information which the shipper set up.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In the conventional load delivery system, when the load was not delivered by the consignee after shipping the load requested from the delivery contractor etc., about the whereabouts of the load, the shipper needed to ask the delivery contractor and needed to check.

[0003] Namely, although there is a thing of a configuration as shown in drawing 7 as a conventional load delivery system As opposed to the load requested by the shipper in the load delivery system 40 shown in this drawing 7 The invoice 50 which set up the bar code which is a unique code for every load with the personal computer 41 which a delivery contractor owns is published, and it is delivered by the consignee via delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,larges 44 and 47 and the junction points 45 and 46 which the delivery contractor manages.

[0004] The reading systems 60, such as a handy scanner for reading the bar code which is a unique code set as the invoice 50 attached for every load at these delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,larges 44 and 47 and each junction points 45 and 46, are installed, the bar code of the invoice 50 attached to the load is read by the reading system 60, and the read bar code information is transmitted to the host equipment 43 installed in headquarters by means of communications.

[0005] In headquarters, it is managed as Redirection Information for the bar code information received from delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,larges 44 and 47 and each junction points 45 and 46 to grasp the delivery situation of each load with host

equipment 43.

[0006] And when a shipper wants to know the conveyance situation of a load, headquarters is accessed from the communication terminals 42 (or dedicated terminal by which fixed installation was carried out), such as a telephone, and if it asks from the contents of bracing of the invoice 50 attached to the load, Redirection Information of the load which corresponds from host equipment 43 by the person in charge of the headquarters will be read, and it will be answered to the conveyance situation of the load concerned.

[0007]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, if it is in the above-mentioned conventional load delivery system 40 When a shipper is going to get to know the conveyance situation of a load Since the approach could not but ask a delivery contractor's headquarters with a communication terminal or the dedicated terminal by which fixed installation was carried out, and a shipper asked a conveyance situation was specified, Other means of communications could not be used but there was a problem that the conveyance situation of a load could not be known, using the electronic mail using the cellular phone which a shipper owns, or a computer etc.

[0008] As assignment with arbitration being possible for a shipper in the notice approach and means of communications about the notice of a conveyance situation, the technical problem of this invention is raising the convenience of a load delivery system while raising a degree of freedom for a shipper to get to know the conveyance situation of a load.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem] A notice approach assignment means to specify the notice approach that invention according to claim 1 notifies a shipper of the conveyance situation of a load, A coding means to code the information which shows the notice approach specified by this notice approach assignment means, An invoice issue means to add the code which shows the notice approach coded by this coding means to the invoice attached to a load, and to publish it, A reading means to read said notice approach in the code added to the invoice by which a load is conveyed at least, and which was installed for every repeater station and attached to the load, It is characterized by having a notice means to notify said shipper of the conveyance situation of the load concerned according to the notice approach read by this reading means.

[0010] If the notice approach which notifies a shipper of the conveyance situation of a load is specified with the notice approach assignment means according to the load

tracking system of this invention according to claim 1 The information which shows this specified notice approach is coded with a coding means. With a reading means installed for every repeater station by which add the code which shows this coded notice approach to the invoice attached to a load with an invoice issue means, publish it, and a load is conveyed at least If said notice approach is read in the code added to the invoice attached to the load, according to this read notice approach, the conveyance situation of the load concerned will be notified by said shipper with a notice means.

[0011] Therefore, a shipper can receive the conveyance situation of a load, the notice of delivery termination, etc. from a load delivery contractor by the specified notice approach, and a shipper can secure a degree of freedom about reception of the conveyance status information of a load. Consequently, the dependability and convenience to a shipper of a load delivery system can be raised.

[0012]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained to a detail with reference to drawing.

[0013] Drawing 1 - drawing 6 are drawings showing the gestalt of 1 operation of the load tracking system which applied this invention.

[0014] First, a configuration is explained.

[0015] Drawing 1 is drawing connecting and showing the outline hard configuration of the load tracking system 1 and the flow of a load concerning the gestalt of this operation.

[0016] the reading system 10 installed at the relay points 6 and 7 when delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,larges 5 and 8 and the load which collect the cargo of / deliver the personal computer 2 and communication terminal 3 by which the load tracking system 1 shown in this drawing 1 is installed in a shipper side, host equipment 4, and the load requested by the shipper are relayed, respectively -- since -- it is constituted. In addition, the communication line network (not shown) connects between the reading system 10 by which a communication terminal 3 and host equipment 4 were installed at delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,larges 5 and 8 and relay points 6 and 7, respectively, and host equipment 4.

[0017] Although a personal computer 2 is not illustrated, it is equipped with a keyboard, a display, an airline printer, etc., when invoice information including the notice approach at the time of the conveyance situation of the load being notified from host equipment 4 at the time of load dispatch etc. is inputted from a keyboard, it generates invoice information including the notice approach, outputs it to a communication terminal 3, and makes invoice information transmit from a communication terminal 3 to host equipment 4.

[0018] In case it is notified to the communication terminal 3 by the side of a shipper from host equipment 4 that the conveyance situation of a load is this notice approach assignment information It is the information for specifying the notice approaches, such as the address at the time of receiving by the communication terminal 3, and notice timing. As the notice address The address of the "homepage" which a shipper opens in a personal computer 2 so that it may illustrate in a communication terminal 3, The address of "assignment E-mail" which a shipper owns on a personal computer 2, Assignment of the address of "dedicated terminals", such as a pocket communication terminal which a shipper owns, the address (telephone number) of "the assignment facsimile apparatus (FAX)" which a shipper owns, or the address (telephone number) of an "assignment telephone" is enabled.

[0019] Moreover, although a personal computer 2 carries out printing issue of the invoice information generated at the time of load dispatch as an invoice 30 from an airline printer, the unique code generated by the two dimensional code for identifying a shipper, the contents of a load, etc. for every load is also printed by this invoice 30. The contents of shipper address and name, the shipper telephone number, the consignee telephone number, and the load other than the above-mentioned notice approach assignment information are set to the invoice information generated in this personal computer 2.

[0020] As this invoice information is shown in drawing 3 , "shipper address-and-name" data 30a, "Shipper telephone number" data 30b, "consignee address-and-name" data 30c, "Consignee telephone number" data 30d, "contents of load" data 30e, "notice approach assignment 1" data 30f, "notice approach assignment 2" data 30g, "notice timing assignment 1" data 30h, "notice timing assignment 2" data 30i, and "serial No." data 30j -- since -- it is constituted. Like the data configuration of the invoice shown in this drawing 2 R> 2, at least two-kind assignment of each assignment of the notice approach and notice timing is enabled.

[0021] The conveyance status information of the load transmitted by the notice approach and notice timing which were specified from host equipment 4 a personal computer 2 furthermore, by the communication terminal 3 If received to the assignment homepage address, the assignment E-mail address, the dedicated terminal address, the assignment facsimile address, or the assignment telephone address A user is notified of reception of the conveyance status information, according to response actuation of a user, the conveyance situation is displayed on a display, or it prints from an airline printer, and a user is notified of a conveyance situation.

[0022] A communication terminal 3 receives with the address (the homepage address,

the assignment E-mail address, the dedicated terminal address, the assignment facsimile address, or assignment telephone address) of the notice approach of assignment, and outputs the response indication of the conveyance situation of the load transmitted by the specified notice approach and the notice timing from host equipment 4 to a personal computer 2 while it transmits the invoice information inputted from the above-mentioned personal computer 2 to host equipment 4.

[0023] Host equipment 4 receives invoice information from a shipper's communication terminal 3, and the notice approach and notice timing which were set as the invoice information are recognized. Whenever it receives the conveyance situation of the load transmitted to delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center, larges 5 and 8 and relay points 6 and 7 from the reading system 10 installed, respectively Delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center, larges 5 and 8 and the relay points 6 and 7 of the transmitting origin are recognized, in order to answer a shipper in the conveyance situation of a load, the response indication of a conveyance situation is generated, and the response indication of a conveyance situation is transmitted to a communication terminal 3 to the notice approach and notice timing which were previously specified from a shipper's communication terminal 3. Moreover, a notice of that delivery of the load from a delivery person to a consignee ended host equipment 4 transmits that the delivery of a load to a consignee was completed to a communication terminal 3 by the notice approach previously specified from a shipper's communication terminal 3.

[0024] Subsequently, the internal configuration of delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center, larges 5 and 8 and the reading system 10 installed in each of relay points 6 and 7 is explained based on the block diagram shown in drawing 2.

[0025] In drawing 2, the reading system 10 is constituted by CPU11, an input unit 12, RAM13, a display 14, a printer 15, storage 16, the storage 17, the invoice reader 18, and the communication link unit 19, and each part except a storage 17 is connected to the bus 20.

[0026] CPU (Central Processing Unit)11 Develop to the program field to which the invoice reader stored in storage 16 is not illustrated in RAM13, and invoice reading processing is performed. The contents of consignee address and name and the load etc. are recognized from the invoice information inputted after an invoice 30 is read by the invoice reader 18 mentioned later. The address-for-delivery directions information that the address for delivery of a load is directed etc. is displayed on a display 14, and the driver of a delivery van who stands by at delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center, larges 5 and 8 and the relay points 6 and 7 when the reading system 10 was installed is notified.

[0027] Moreover, in order that CPU11 may notify that the load arrived at the

delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center, larges 5 and 8 and relay points 6 and 7 to host equipment 4, it generates Redirection Information using the read delivery information, and makes the Redirection Information transmit to host equipment 4 by the communication link unit 19. Furthermore, CPU11 memorizes the invoice information read by the invoice reader 18 as an invoice file in storage 16, and presupposes that it is available to delivery management of the load in the delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center, larges 5 and 8 or relay points 6 and 7 with host equipment 4.

[0028] An input unit 12 is equipped with a cursor key, a figure input key, various function keys, etc., and outputs the depression signal of the pressed key to CPU11.

[0029] RAM (Random Access Memory) 13 forms the memory area which memorizes temporarily the invoice information read in an invoice 30 by the invoice reader 18 in reading processing of the invoice performed by CPU11.

[0030] A display 14 is constituted by CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) etc., and displays the indicative data inputted from CPU11. An airline printer 15 prints and outputs the printing data inputted from CPU11 to a predetermined record form.

[0031] The store 16 has the storage 17 with which a program and data are memorized beforehand, and this storage 17 consists of a magnetic and optical record medium or semiconductor memory. Storage 16 is equipped with this storage 17 free [ the thing prepared fixed or attachment and detachment ], and the invoice information read with the above-mentioned invoice processing program and this invoice reading processing program is memorized to this storage 16.

[0032] Moreover, a program, data, etc. which are memorized to this storage 17 You may make it the configuration received and memorized from other devices 4 connected through the communication line, for example, host equipment. Furthermore, the store which equipped with the above-mentioned storage 17 other devices side connected through the communication line etc. may be formed, and you may make it the program memorized by this storage 17 and the configuration which uses data through a communication line.

[0033] The invoice reader 18 is a bar code reader (BCR) which reads a two dimensional code, from the unique code printed by the invoice 30, reads the notice approach, notice time amount, a notice location, etc., and outputs such information to CPU11.

[0034] Next, actuation of the gestalt of this operation is explained.

[0035] First, in case the invoice attached to a load in a shipper at the time of load dispatch is published, invoice input process with the above-mentioned personal computer 2 is explained based on the flow chart shown in drawing 4.

[0036] A personal computer 2 displays the input screen which stimulates the input of



each input item of the invoice on a display based on the data configuration of the invoice shown in drawing 3 . In this input screen, if each contents of an item are inputted into each input frame of "shipper address and name", the "shipper telephone number", "consignee address and name", the "consignee telephone number", and the "contents of the load" one by one by the alter operation from the keyboard by the shipper (step S1 - step S5), each of those inputted contents of an item will be set up on an invoice data configuration.

[0037] Subsequently, in order to urge selection of the notice approach specified to host equipment 4 to a personal computer 2, the selection screen which indicated the above-mentioned assignment homepage address, the assignment E-mail address, the dedicated terminal address, the assignment facsimile address, or the assignment telephone address by the list is displayed to a display, and it makes a shipper do selection assignment of the notice approach (step S6). If selection assignment of the notice approach is carried out, in order to urge assignment of notice timing, as notice timing For example, "whenever a load arrives at a relay point, it notifies", [ "notifying whenever a load reaches delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large" ] A selectable notice timing selection screen is displayed for "notifying, whenever a load arrives at delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large and a relay point", "notifying, when a load reaches a consignee", etc. on a display, and selection assignment of the notice timing is carried out (step S7). In addition, on the occasion of selection assignment of this notice timing, selection assignment is possible for two kinds of notice timing.

[0038] This notice approach and notice timing that were specified are set up on an invoice data configuration. Each of this assignment information, Each input item inputted by each processing of the above-mentioned step S1 - step S5, Serial No. for identifying each invoice is set automatically (step S8). Two-dimensional-code-ize each above-mentioned input item and the above-mentioned selection assignment item, and the printing data for publishing the invoice containing this two dimensional code and serial No. are generated (step S9). Printing issue of the invoice is carried out with the invoice form set in a printer 15 with this generated printing data (step S10).

[0039] And transmit the invoice information based on the invoice which carried out printing issue to a communication terminal 3, invoice information is made to transmit to host equipment 4 through a communication line from a communication terminal 3 (step S11), and this invoice input process is ended.

[0040] At this time, with host equipment 4, the invoice information received from the communication terminal 3 is memorized, and it is used on the occasion of the invoice reception mentioned later.

[0041] After the invoice published with the personal computer 2 is attached to a load and passed to a load delivery contractor, it is delivered by the consignee 9 from delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large 5 by the load delivery contractor concerned via relay points 6 and 7 and delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large 8.

[0042] Next, the invoice transmitting processing performed by the reading system 10 in each delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,larges 5 and 8 or relay points 6 and 7 is explained based on the flow chart shown in drawing 5.

[0043] Although a load delivery contractor delivers the load in which the delivery request was done by the shipper in order of a delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large 5 -> relay point 6 -> relay point 7 -> delivery / collection-of-cargo pin center,large 8 -> consignee, the reading system 10 installed in each of that delivery base makes the two-dimensional unique code which shows the invoice information printed by the invoice 30 attached to the load by the invoice reader 18 read.

[0044] Namely, CPU11 in the reading system 10 installed in each delivery base Processing is started with the invoice transmitting processing program stored in storage 16. With the invoice reader 18, first, from the two-dimensional unique code on an invoice While "shipper address and name", the "shipper telephone number", "consignee address and name", the "consignee telephone number", the "contents of the load", the "notice approach", and "notice timing" are read When "serial No." is read (step S21), the read "shipper address and name", The "shipper telephone number", "consignee address and name", the "consignee telephone number", the "contents of the load", the "notice approach assignment 1 and 2", the "notice timing assignment 1 and 2", and "serial No." are made to memorize as an invoice file in storage 16.

[0045] And a current delivery base distinguishes whether it is the delivery termination point which sends a load to it being the last delivery base, i.e., a consignee, as a course point (step S22), and if it is not a delivery termination point Shift to step S24, read the invoice information memorized to storage 16 by processing of step S21, invoice information is made to transmit to host equipment 4 through a communication line by the communication link unit 19, and this invoice transmitting processing is ended.

[0046] Moreover, if a current delivery base is a delivery termination point, will read the invoice information memorized to storage 16 by processing of step S21, invoice information will be made to transmit to host equipment 4 through a communication line including the notice of delivery termination to this invoice information by the communication link unit 19 (step S23), and this invoice transmitting processing will be ended.

[0047] That is, when a load reaches delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large 10

which serves as a delivery termination point among the above-mentioned delivery sequence in the case of the system configuration shown in drawing 1 , a load is sent to a consignee 9 from delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large 10 and an invoice is read by the reading system 10 of the handy terminal mold carried in the delivery truck, the invoice information contain the notice of delivery termination will be transmitted to host equipment 4.

[0048] Next, the reception of the invoice information performed in host equipment 4 is explained based on the flow chart shown in drawing 6 .

[0049] Host equipment 4 stands by reception of the invoice information transmitted from each reading system 10 installed at each delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large 5 and 8 or relay points 6 and 7, and if the arrival of the invoice information transmitted from each of that delivery base is detected, it will start the reception of this invoice information. If the invoice information transmitted from each reading system 10 installed at each delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large 5 and 8 or relay points 6 and 7 is received after host equipment 4 detects the arrival of invoice information (step S31) The "notice timing assignment 1 and 2" set as the invoice information previously received and memorized from a shipper's communication terminal 3, Coincidence with the "notice timing assignment 1 and 2" set as the received invoice information is checked, and the notice timing of the load is distinguished based on the "notice timing assignment 1 and 2" (step S32). That is, the notice timing assignment 1 and 2 of the load distinguishes whether it is "notifying, whenever a load's reaches delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large", "notifying, whenever a load's arrives at a relay point", "notifying, whenever a load's arrives at delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center,large and a relay point", or "notifying, when a load's reaches a consignee."

[0050] Subsequently, if it checks whether the notice of delivery termination is included in the received invoice information (step S33) and the notice of delivery termination is not included, it checks whether it shifts to step S35 and corresponds to the notice timing which current receiving timing distinguished by processing of step S31. If it does not correspond to notice timing, and this invoice reception is ended and it corresponds to notice timing The "notice approach assignment 1 and 2" set as the invoice information previously received and memorized from a shipper's communication terminal 3, Coincidence with the notice approach which the "notice approach assignment 1 and 2" set as the received invoice information shows is checked. According to the "notice approach assignment 1 and 2", the conveyance situation of a load is transmitted to a communication terminal 3 through a communication line to the shipper of the load (step S36), and this invoice reception is ended.

[0051] When the conveyance situation of the load is changed into the document format which can be uploaded to a homepage, and it transmits to a shipper's homepage address, when the "homepage address" is specified as for example, the notice approach, and the "assignment E-mail address" is specified, host equipment 4 changes the conveyance situation of the load into text format etc., and transmits it to a shipper's assignment E-mail address.

[0052] Moreover, when the conveyance situation of the load changes into a data format receivable [ with a dedicated terminal ], and it transmits to a shipper's dedicated terminal, when the "dedicated terminal address" is specified as for example, the notice approach, and the "assignment facsimile address", or the "assignment telephone address" are specified, host equipment 4 changes the conveyance situation of the load into a data format receivable by facsimile apparatus or the telephone, and transmits it to assignment facsimile apparatus or assignment telephone of a shipper.

[0053] Moreover, when it is checked that the notice of delivery termination is included in the received invoice information in processing of step S33 According to the notice approach which the "notice approach assignment 1 and 2" set as the invoice information shows, delivery termination of a load is transmitted to a communication terminal 3 through a communication line to the shipper of the load by the notice approach specified similarly (step S34), and this invoice reception is ended.

[0054] As mentioned above, according to the load tracking system 1 of the gestalt of this operation, a shipper enables assignment of the notice approach about the delivery condition of a load, and notice timing with a personal computer 2. While coding and printing the notice approach and the invoice information containing notice timing in the invoice 30 attached to the load If the invoice information is beforehand transmitted to host equipment 4 by the communication terminal 3, and the invoice information printed by the invoice 30 attached to the load by delivery/collection-of-cargo pin center, larges 5 and 8 used as a delivery base and each reading system 10 installed at relay points 6 and 7 is read and it transmits to host equipment 4 Host equipment 4 is based on the notice approach and notice timing which were set as the invoice information received from a shipper's communication terminal 3 and each delivery base. Since it was made to transmit to the communication terminal 3 which the shipper specified to the notice approach which had the conveyance situation of the load, and the notice of delivery termination specified, and notice timing, A shipper can receive the notice of a conveyance situation to two or more notice approaches and notice timing in the location of arbitration, and can secure a degree of freedom about reception of the conveyance status information of a load.

[0055] Consequently, also by the case where the load of hurry is delivered, and the case where a shipper's whereabouts moves during delivery of a load, a shipper can grasp the conveyance situation of a load certainly and can raise the dependability of a load delivery system.

[0056] In addition, further, a transmitter is carried in a delivery truck, and it communicates between this transmitter and host equipment 4, for example, you may make it make a conveyance situation and invoice information transmit to host equipment 4 for every fixed time amount from the transmitter of a delivery truck in the load tracking system concerning the gestalt of this operation.

[0057]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the load tracking system of invention according to claim 1, a shipper can receive the conveyance situation of a load, the notice of delivery termination, etc. from a load delivery contractor by the specified notice approach, and a shipper can secure a degree of freedom about reception of the conveyance status information of a load. Consequently, the dependability and convenience to a shipper of a load delivery system can be raised.

[0058] According to the load tracking system of invention according to claim 2, a shipper can receive the notice of a conveyance situation to two or more notice approaches and notice timing in the location of arbitration, and can secure a degree of freedom about reception of the conveyance status information of a load.

[0059] According to the load tracking system of invention according to claim 3, a shipper can receive the notice of a conveyance situation by the communication terminal of the arbitration to own, and can secure a degree of freedom about reception of the conveyance status information of a load.

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CLAIMS

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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] A notice approach assignment means to specify the notice approach which notifies a shipper of the conveyance situation of a load, A coding means to code the information which shows the notice approach specified by this notice approach assignment means, An invoice issue means to add the code which shows the notice approach coded by this coding means to the invoice attached to a load, and to publish it, A reading means to read said notice approach in the code added to the invoice by which a load is conveyed at least, and which was installed for every repeater station and attached to the load, The load tracking system characterized by having a notice means to notify said shipper of the conveyance situation of the load concerned according to the notice approach read by this reading means.

[Claim 2] Said notice approach assignment means is a load tracking system according to claim 1 characterized by enabling assignment of the location to notify, the time amount to notify as said notice approach.

[Claim 3] It is the load tracking system according to claim 2 which said notice approach assignment means still enables assignment of the class and the communication-terminal address concerned of the communication terminal to which a shipper receives a notice from said notice means as said notice approach, and is characterized by for said notice means to notify the conveyance situation of said load to the terminal address of the communication terminal which the shipper specified as the notice approach read by the aforementioned reading means owns.

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